

Rationale for Decision

The decision to issue the permit and sign the Implementation Agreement was made because the Habitat Conservation Plan proposed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources to comply with the Endangered Species Act, as well as its legal and constitutional mandates as the trustee manager of State timber lands, meets the statutory criteria for issuance of an incidental take permit under section 10 of the Act, as well as the Fish and Wildlife Service's trust responsibility to Native American Tribes. The Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan Alternative specifically addresses listed species throughout the planning area and riparian habitat management which captures the majority of species that might inhabit the planning units west of the Cascade Crest, including anadromous salmonids which are a resource subject to the Fish and Wildlife Service's trust responsibility. Furthermore, the Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan Alternative provides management goals for all forest types throughout the planning area, and associated species, as well as special habitat management for habitats such as large trees, caves, talus slopes, wetlands, oak woodlands, down logs, and standing snags in the planning units west of the Cascade Crest.

The permit was granted only after the Fish and Wildlife Service determined that the permit was applied for in good faith, that all permit issuance criteria were met, including the requirement that granting the permit would not jeopardize the continued existence of the species, and that the permit is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

Dated: February 20, 1997.

Donald V. Friberg,

Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

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Geological Survey

Request for Public Comments on Proposed Information Collection to be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The proposed information collection described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the proposed collection instrument may be

obtained by contacting the Bureau's clearance officer at the phone number listed below. Comments and suggestions on the proposal should be made within 60 days directly to the Bureau Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 208 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia, 20192. Telephone 703-648-7313.

Specific public comments are requested as to:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions on the bureaus, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of the bureau's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. The quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
4. How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Title: "The National Atlas of the United States of America".

OMB approval number: New Collection.

Abstract: Potential customers of electronic national atlas products will be asked questions that provide (1) potential uses of these products; (2) type of personal computer used; (3) current method of acquiring atlas-type information; (4) demographic information; and (5) personal expectations from the products. Survey questionnaires will be distributed by mail in a return postage-paid format. Focus groups will be held at various locations across the United States and could include prototype product testing. Customer information gathered from the questionnaires and focus groups will be used to evaluate "The National Atlas of the United States of America" products and to make development adjustments based on customer responses. The proposed collection is limited in scope to the National Atlas products and the capability of the products to meet customer needs. The USGS intends to develop a cooperative research and development agreement with private industry to assist in product development and to provide an additional avenue for product distribution.

Bureau form number: None.

Frequency: An estimated 2-3 surveys and 5-8 focus groups per year to evaluate potential customer segments and reactions.

Description of respondents: Owners of powerful home personal computers,

some with Internet access—potentially the general public, libraries, and schools.

Estimated completion time: Varies depending on the mechanism used: Approximately 0.25 hour (15 minutes) per survey and 1 hour per focus group session.

Annual responses: Approximately 1,000 survey and 100 focus group responses.

Annual burden hours: 350.

Bureau clearance officer: John Cordyack, 703-648-7313.

Dated: February 20, 1997.

Jack Fischer,

Associate Division Chief for Operations.

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Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC); Application Notice Establishing the Closing Date for Transmittal of Applications Under the FGDC National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Framework Demonstration Projects Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 1997

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice inviting applications for competitive cooperative agreement awards for fiscal year 1997.

SUMMARY: The purpose of the FGDC National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Framework Demonstration Projects Program (FDPP) is to facilitate and provide resources for the development and implementation of the NSDI framework concept. Under this FY 1997 program announcement, applications are to be directed towards projects that test a full range of information content; technical, operational, and business contexts; and institutional interactions of the framework concept. These projects should demonstrate the sustained ability, over a geographic area, to supply data to the greater geospatial data community from locally available data sources through the implementation of the framework process.

In addition, these projects should provide practical examples of framework implementation, suggest innovative alternative approaches to accomplish framework goals and indicate topics for future research and development. Applicants are being sought who are establishing long-term organizational structures, and cooperative arrangements with other organizations in sustained efforts to